two functionaries of the Andhra Pradesh Freedom Fighters Organisation have alleged that there are as many as 4000 bogus freedom fighters in the State getting pension from the Government and enjoying all the perks.

The Central Government sanctions freedom fighters' pension in a case on the basis of the documents produced by the applicant and the recommendation of the concerned State Government. It is made clear in the sanction letter that pension is subject to review and can be cancelled/ modified, without any further notice, if it is established that the same was obtained on mistaken grounds or false information. Complaints received are enquired into through the concerned State Governments and their agencies, as also through the Central investigating agencies, wherever considered necessary. So far, pension has been suspended in 2886 cases and cancelled in 1316 cases. A statement indicating the position, Statewise, is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise position of suspended/cancelled cases freedom fighter pension

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of cases	
		Suspended	Cancelled
1.	Andhra Pradesh	101	4
2.	Bihar	624	180
3.	Goa	9	9
4.	Haryana	15	22
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	2
6.	Karnataka	570	261
7.	Kerala	720	61
8.	Madhya Pradesh	55	61
9.	Maharashtra	227	36
10.	Meghalaya	7	13
11.	Orissa	12	85
12.	Punjab	101	26
13.	Tamil Nadu	15	81
14.	Uttar Pradesh	228	222
15.	West Bengal	191	214
16.	Delhi	2	26
17.	Pondicherry	9	13
	TOTAL:	2886	1316

Cost-Benefit Analysis of Grain Handling by Ports

*351. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any cost-benefit analysis of the economies involved in handling grains in the Major Ports has been done; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the organisation which conducted the study?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Kandla Port Trust has obtained a Techno Economic feasibility report from the Design and Consultancy, Pune, Ministry Defence regarding construction of an additional berth with mechanised handling system for export of 1.5 million tonnes of grain per year in bulk from Kandla. No final decision has been taken yet by the Port.

Tenders for conversion of National Highway No. 8 into Four-lane Highway

*352. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of inviting tenders for converting the Ankleshwar-Mumbai stretch of National Highway No. 8 into four-lane Highway has been completed;

(b) whether tenders have since been invited;

(c) if the tenders have not been invited, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the works proposed to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) National Highway No. 8 from Ankleshwar (in Gujarat), km. 207/6 to Gujarat border, km. 381.6, has a length of about 174 kms. Out of this length,

23.02 km. length is already four-laned and the work of four-laning is in progress in about 29.89 km. The balance length is two-lane. However, tenders for four-laning, for the stretch from km. 249/4 to 259/4, have been invited as well as accepted by the Government of Gujarat.

Further, the following works of 4-laning have been sanctioned to be financed from the World Bank loan assistance programme in respect of the chainages of N.H.No. 8 in Maharashtra from km. 381/600 to 502/370 (from Gujarat border to Mumbai).

(a) from km. 439/0 to 477/0 .....Rs. 6151.95 lakhs.

(b) from km. 477/0 to 497/0 .....Rs. 3100.63 lakhs.

Thus, for four-laning of 58 km. of road between Bassein Creek to Manor of N.H. 8 in Maharashtra which includes the construction of five major bridges/ one R.U.B. (Rail under Bridge) at an estimated cost of Rs. 115 crores, tenders have been evaluated and posed to World Bank for their approval. In respect of km. 497/0 to 498/900, the four laning works costing Rs. 446.93 lakhs have been sanctioned on 29.3.96 and tenders have been accepted on 6.2.97.

In respect of the road segment from Valsad (km. 333.8) to Manor (at km. 439.0), the four-laning works have been entrusted to N.H.A.I. (National Highways Authority of India) who have initiated feasibility studies and detailed project preparation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops along Siachen Glacier

*353. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM:
SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that provocation by Pakistani troops along Siachen glacier border in Jammu and Kashmir has been increasing alarmingly in the recent times;

(b) if so, the action Government have taken to counter this move;

(c) whether Indian side has suffered any casualty because of such firing; and

(d) whether this matter has been taken up with the Pakistani authorities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) Unprovoked intermittent firing including heavy weapons like artillery and mortars by the Pakistani troops across the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Siachen Sector is a regular phenomenon. There has been no appreciable change in the pattern of firing in 1996 as compared to the previous years. Whenever tactically desirable, appropriate and adequate measures are taken by the Army to counter Pakistani firing. The response is a measured one and the endeavour is to keep the incidents localised. There have been a few casualties amongst Indian troops. Major incidents of Pakistani firing and consequent escalation of tension in Siachen Sector are discussed during weekly telephonic conversation of DGMOs of the two countries whenever considered necessary.

Switching over to the Old Names of Mumbai and Chennai

*354. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to switch over to the old names of Mumbai and Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.